

DOUBLE BEAVER FIRE SALVAGE TIMBER SALE

November 19, 2007 Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Clearwater Unit (SWLO) – Approximately 4 air miles southwest of Seeley Lake, Montana.
- Missoula County – Sections 6, 8, and 18, T16N-R15W
- Trust Distribution - 100% M.S.U. 2nd Grant.
- This fire salvage sale is within the Jocko Lakes Fire perimeter and the wildland urban interface.

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated sale volume is 16,993 tons (3,189 MBF) with an estimated minimum bid value of \$322,685.00 or \$19.00/ton.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$4.27/ton for Forest Improvement would be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 5.33 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale includes 5 harvest units totaling 660 acres.
- Harvest prescriptions would salvage fire killed and fire stressed trees burned as a result of the Jocko Lakes Fire. In areas of high fire severity, all merchantable trees except those required for snag retention and recruitment would be harvested. In areas of moderate to light fire severity, a shelterwood harvest prescription would be applied where tree survival allows. A shelterwood harvest would leave 15 – 25 live, healthy trees per acre favoring ponderosa pine and western larch. Eight acres of unburned lodgepole pine trees infected with mountain pine beetle would also be harvested. High fire severity areas would be prioritized for planting with western larch, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir seedlings within 1-3 years after salvage logging. Other areas (low to mixed severity burn areas) would be monitored for natural regeneration and planted if necessary.
- This sale contains no old growth.

Harvest Systems:

- 92% Tractor
- 8% excaline/winchline

Road Construction:

- Existing access to the section is through county and private forest roads which DNRC has a temporary easement across. In conjunction with the timber sale, DNRC would maintain 10.7 miles of road. Approximately 0.2 mile of temporary road would be built. This road would be closed upon completion of harvest activities. In addition, approximately 0.5 mile of old road would be obliterated.

Public Involvement:

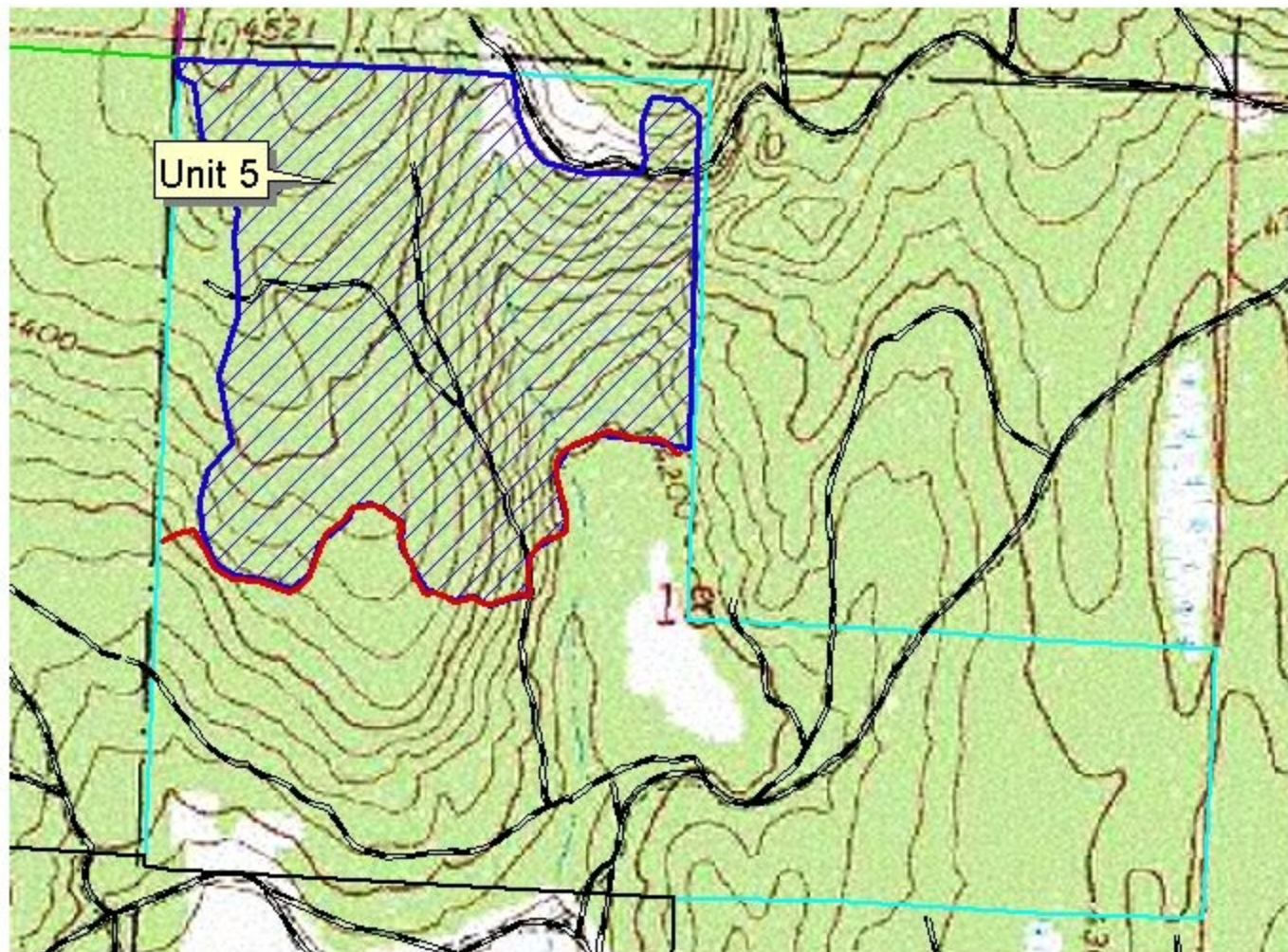
- Scoping letters were mailed to adjacent landowners and other interested parties on September 10, 2007. A public notice was published in the *Missoulian* and *Seeley Swan Pathfinder* newspapers; notices were also posted at the Seeley Lake Post Office, Stoney's Gas Station and Rovero's Gas Station. Two letters, both supporting the proposed action, were received. The areas of concern were wildlife, the spread of noxious weeds, and soil erosion.

Issues and Mitigations:

- **Black-backed woodpecker** – Approximately 319 acres (17% of the state-owned burned area) of black-backed woodpecker habitat would be retained for this species in the Jocko Lakes parcel. In addition, snag and snag recruit trees would be retained within the proposed harvest areas. At least 1 snag and 1 snag recruit per acre over 21 inches in diameter would be retained if available. If not available, then a snag or snag recruit tree in the next largest available size class would be retained. In addition to large snags, 1 snag between 15 to 21 inches in diameter would be left per 2 acres. Mechanized activities would be restricted from April 15 through July 1 within 0.25 mile of any unharvested 40-acre black-backed woodpecker habitat patches within the proposed harvest units.
- **Noxious Weeds** - Heavy equipment used for felling, skidding, log processing and loading activities would be required to be washed and inspected before being brought on site. All disturbed areas would be seeded with a native grass mix. All active sale roads within the project area would receive one herbicide treatment as part of this sale.
- **Soil Erosion** – The Jocko Lakes Fire will cause an increase of surface runoff, water yields and on-site surface erosion that may affect stream channel scouring. While some timber operations may impact soil resources, road and harvest mitigations have been designed to minimize impacts. Mitigations incorporated into this sale include season of use restrictions which require dry or frozen ground, skid trail planning, return skidding of slash to add organic matter and hold soil in place, and maintaining road drainage through up-sizing some culverts and the installation of drivable dips.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Double Beaver Fire Salvage Timber Sale.

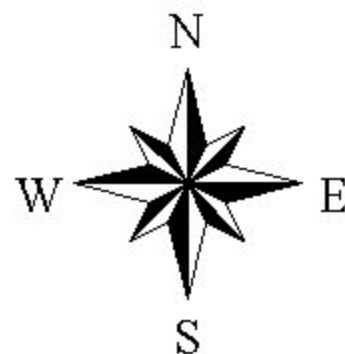
Double Beaver Fire Salvage Timber Sale Harvest Units Section 18



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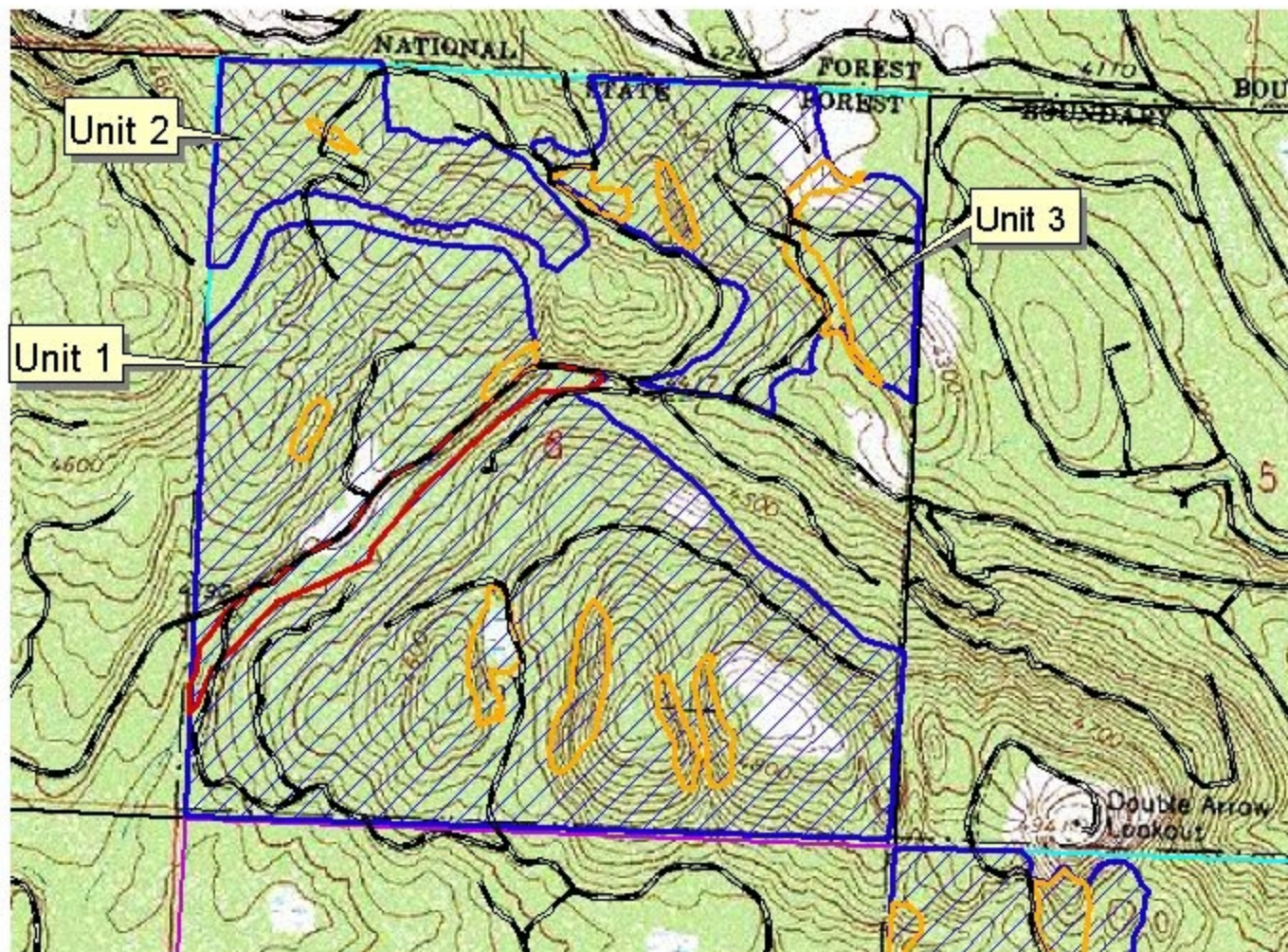
LEGEND

-  Fireline Rehabilitation
-  Roads -- Existing
-  Equipment Restriction Zone
-  Harvest Units
- Ownership
-  Forest Service
-  Plum Creek
-  Private
-  State of Montana (DNRC)



S. Pierce 10-22-07

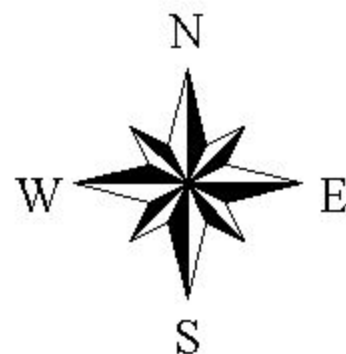
Double Beaver Fire Salvage Timber Sale Harvest Units Section 6



0.4 0 0.4 0.8 Miles

LEGEND

- Roads -- Existing
- Streamside Management Zone
- Equipment Restriction Zone
- Harvest Units
- Ownership**
- Forest Service
- Plum Creek
- Private
- State of Montana (DNRC)



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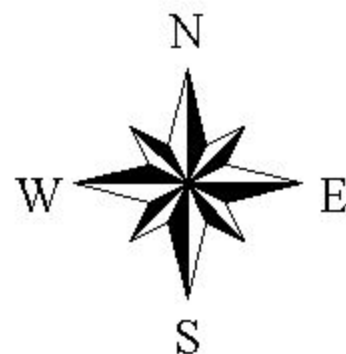
Double Beaver Fire Salvage Timber Sale Harvest Units Section 8



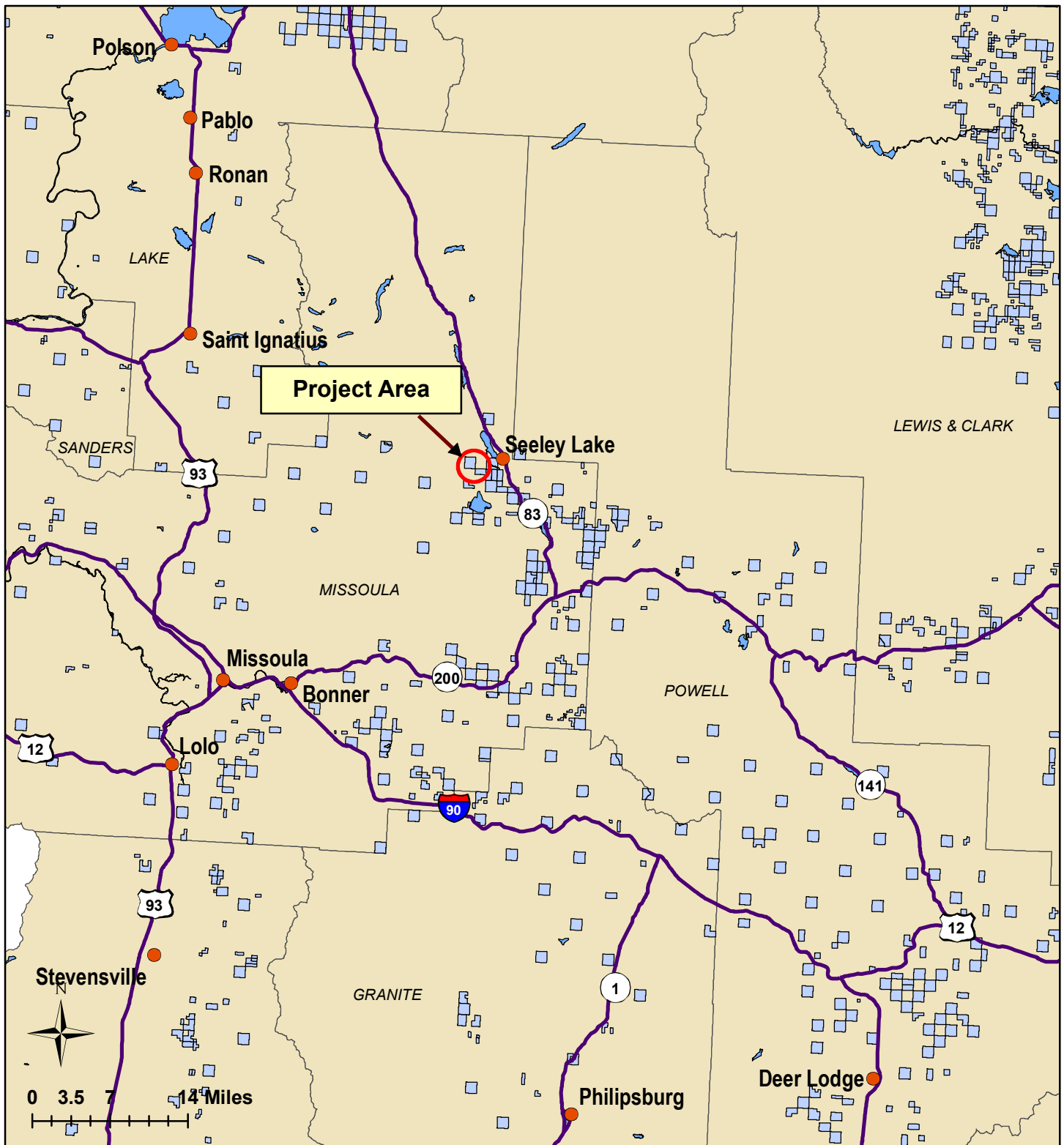
0.4 0 0.4 0.8 Miles

LEGEND

- Roads -- Existing
- Equipment Restriction Zone
- Harvest Units
- Ownership**
- Forest Service
- Plum Creek
- Private
- State of Montana (DNRC)
- Temporary Road Spur



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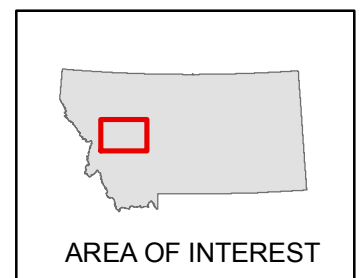
Double-Beaver Fire Salvage Timber Sale Vicinity Map (Small Scale)

NAD 1983 StatePlane Montana

Prepared by
Montana Department
of Natural Resources and Conservation
October 2007

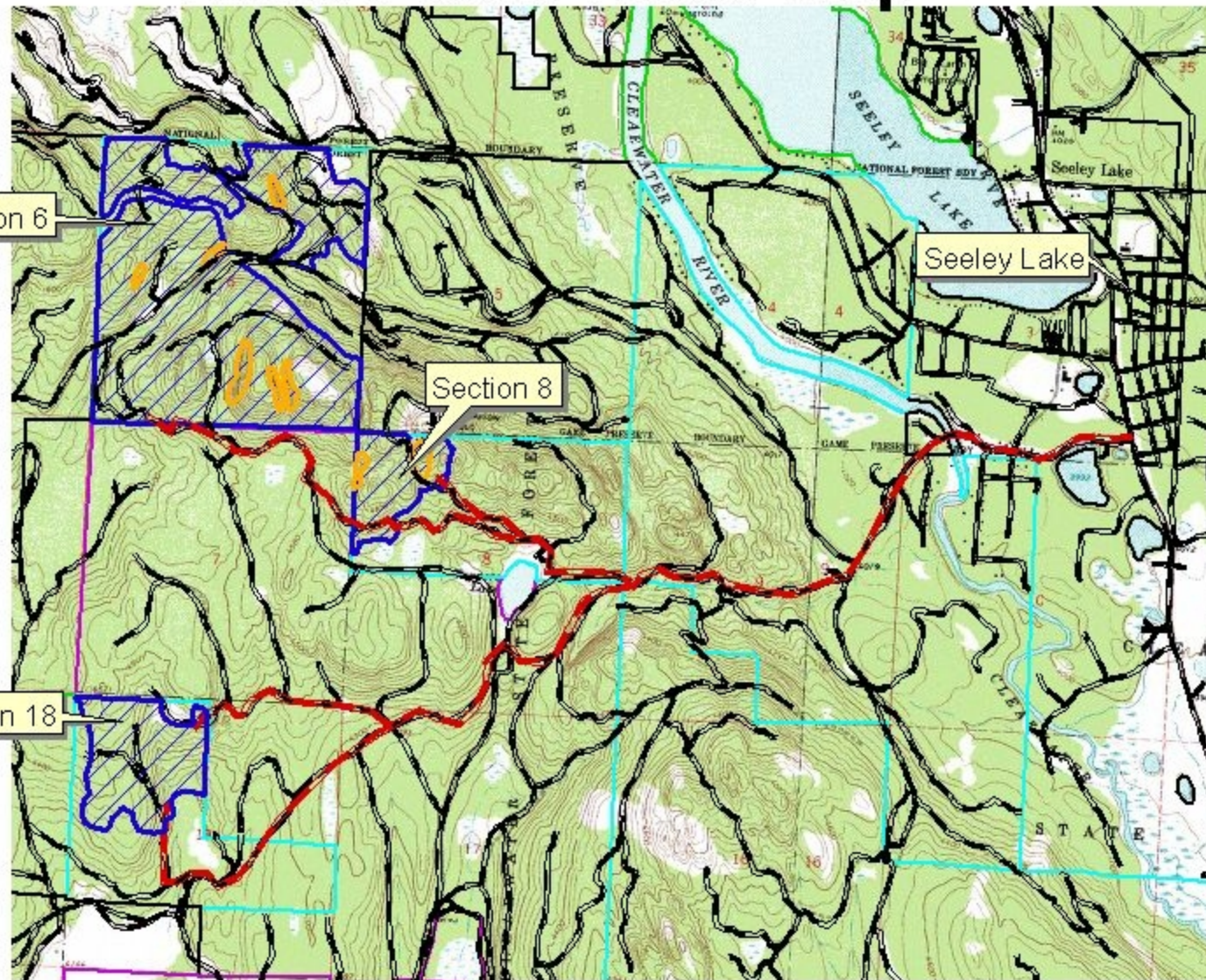
Legend

- Cities
- Roads
- DNRC Parcels
- Counties



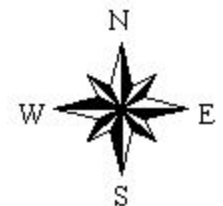
Double Beaver Fire Salvage Timber Sale Road Map

Attachment A-1



LEGEND

- Haul Route
- Roads -- Existing
- Harvest Units
- Ownership**
 - Forest Service
 - Plum Creek
 - Private
 - State of Montana (DNRC)



S. Pierce
10-22-07